

Message Text

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ACTION SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 OIC-04 AID-20 CEQ-02

CIAE-00 COA-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 EPA-04 INR-10

IO-14 L-03 NSF-04 NSC-07 NSAE-00 PM-07 RSC-01 SS-20

SP-03 FEA-02 INT-08 AEC-11 DRC-01 /177 W

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P 240742Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1489

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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DEPT PASS TO CEQ AND EPA

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SENV FR GW JA UK OVIP (MIKI, TAKEO)

SUBJ: MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION

AND MIKI'S TRIP TO FRANCE, FRG, AND UK, MAY 2-12

REF: (A) STATE 80386, (B) TOKYO 4823

SUMMARY: GENERAL PLANS FOR US-JAPAN MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE
ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION GIVEN BELOW. ACTION REQUESTED:
PROVIDE REACTION AS REQUESTED IN PARA 3 AND 6. END SUMMARY.

1. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH BABA (DIRECTOR, INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
DIVISION, ENVIRONMENT AGENCY) AND OTHER OFFICIALS OF ENVIRONMENT
AGENCY (EA) APR 19, SCICOUNS REVIEWED EA THINKING ON SCENARIO
FOR STAFF AND MINISTERIAL MEETINGS MAY 17-25. EA OFFICIALS,
POINTING OUT THAT DIET WOULD STILL BE IN SESSION IF IT EXTENDED
AS EXPECTED, SAID THAT EA DIRECTOR-GENERAL MIKI WOULD PROBABLY
BE ABLE TO ATTEND ONLY MONDAY SESSION (MAY 20), WHEN DIET DOES NOT
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CONVENE. ON SECOND DAY OF SESSION, ADMINISTRATIVE VICE MINISTER

FUNAGO WOULD PRESIDE OVER SESSION. PRESS CONFERENCE AND COMMUNIQUE WOULD BE ISSUED AT CLOSE OF SECOND DAY, EVEN IF, AS NOW SEEMS PROBABLE, MIKI UNABLE TO PARTICIPATE PERSONALLY. EMBASSY COMMENT: WHILE MIKI'S LIMITED ATTENDANCE AT CONFERENCE SOMEWHAT IRKING, PARTICULARLY SINCE SCHEDULE ARRANGED TO MEET HIS CONVENIENCE, EMBASSY FEELS HIS UNAVAILABILITY FOR PART OF SESSION UNDERSTANDABLE UNDER PRESENT DIFFICULT PARLIAMENTARY CONDITIONS, AND MEETING WILL CONTINUE TO BE EFFECTIVE IN ABSENCE. AS DEPT AND CEQ AWARE, MIKI IS DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND ACTIVE DIET MEMBER, THUS SPENDING FAR LESS THAN FULL-TIME AS HEAD OF EA, WHICH, LIKE MOST GOJ MINISTRIES, IS RUN ON DAY-TO-DAY BASIS BY ITS ADMINISTRATIVE VICE MINISTER. MIKI THEREFORE DOES NOT HAVE IN-DEPTH KNOWLEDGE OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS. IF DIET SESSION CONTINUES, ALTERNATIVE TO ABOVE ARRANGEMENT WOULD BE ONE-DAY MINISTERIAL-LEVEL MEETING ON DAY MIKI AVAILABLE, WHICH WE CONSIDER FAR LESS DESIRABLE ALTERNATIVE THAN 2-DAY SESSION WITH FUNAGO SITTING IN.

2. EA OFFICIALS ALSO WERE CAREFUL TO INFORM EMBOFFS THAT MIKI HAS ACCEPTED LONG-STANDING INVITATION TO VISIT UNITED KINGDOM FROM MAY SECOND TO TWELFTH MAKING STOPS ALSO IN FRANCE AND FRG. BABA POINTED OUT THAT, ALTHOUGH INVITATION WAS EXTENDED TO MIKI AS HEAD OF JAPAN'S ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM, PLANS ARE FOR MIKI, AS DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, TO MEET KEY MINISTERS OF NEW UK GOVT, INCLUDING PRIME MINISTER. BABA ALSO SAID THAT MIKI WOULD MEET CHANCELLOR IN FRG. NO DETAILS GIVEN ON TRIP TO FRANCE. EA OFFICIALS EXPRESSLY HOPED US WOULD NOT MISUNDERSTAND THIS EXTENDED TRIP BY MIKI IN VIEW HIS LIMITED AVAILABILITY FOR CONFERENCE. AS NOTED ABOVE, EMBASSY CONSIDERS THESE CIRCUMSTANCES UNDERSTANDABLE IN LIGHT MIKI'S BROAD NON-ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES.

3. EA OFFICIALS EXPLAINED THAT THEIR IDEA CONCERNING PRELIMINARY STAFF MEETING WAS THAT ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICIALS OF DIRECTOR-LEVEL WOULD DISCUSS ENTIRE AGENDA, INCLUDING ALL SUB-TOPICS, IN DETAIL. MINISTERS WOULD THEN COVER SAME AGENDA ON MORE GENERAL AND LESS STRUCTURED BASIS, RELYING PRINCIPALLY ON MAJOR HEADINGS OF AGENDA, AND RECEIVING REPORTS FROM STAFF-LEVEL SESSION ON DETAILED TOPICS. SCICOUNS SUGGESTED THAT BOTH SIDES SEEK TO IDENTIFY SPECIFIC TOPICS WITHIN OVERALL AGENDA, ESPECIALLY UNDER ITEM II, WHICH OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO DELEGATION HEADS, NOTING CHAIRMAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PETERSON'S ROLE IN LAND USE PLANNING (ITEM F). PLEASE ADVISE IF EA'S OVERALL APPROACH AND SCICOUNS RECOMMENDATION ACCEPTABLE, AND, IF SO, SPECIFIC TOPICS TO WHICH US DEL WOULD WANT TO GIVE EMPHASIS DURING MINISTERIAL-LEVEL SESSIONS.

4. AS NOTED ABOVE, AND AS CUSTOMARY IN US-JAPAN MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, CONFERENCE WOULD CONCLUDE WITH ADOPTION OF JOINT COMMUNIQUE AND PRESS CONFERENCE. COMMUNIQUE WOULD BE PREPARED IN

STAFF-LEVEL MEETING FOR APPROVAL AT MINISTERIAL SESSION, BUT SCICOUNS URGED THAT EARLIER START BE MADE ON DRAFT. SINCE JAPAN HOST COUNTRY, WE BELIEVE IT APPROPRIATE THEY ASSUME INITIAL DRAFTING RESPONSIBILITY, BUT EMBASSY WILL PASS ON ANY INPUT US SPECIFICALLY WANTS TO OFFER BEFORE SESSIONS BEGIN.

5. SCICOUNS INFORMED EA OFFICIALS THAT NEW US DRAFT ON ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT HAD BEEN PRESENTED TO FONOFF THAT DAY AND STRESSED THAT US DID NOT WISH TO RULE OUT SIGNING AGREEMENT AT MINISTERIAL MEETING. THIS POINT WAS REITERATED IN SUBSEQUENT SESSION WITH VICE MINISTER FUNAGO, WHO EXPRESSED INTEREST IN POSSIBLE CONCLUSION OF AGREEMENT AT CONFERENCE, AND PROMISED ALL POSSIBLE EFFORTS TOWARD THIS END. AS PRACTICAL MATTER, HOWEVER, EMBASSY CONSIDERS CONCLUSION OF AGREEMENT AT TIME OF CONFERENCE UNLIKELY, SINCE, DESPITE PROGRESS, GOJ STILL WRESTLING WITH ARTICLE FOUR, ESPECIALLY REFERENCE CALLING FOR "HARMONIZATION" OF ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY AND PRACTICES. EA ALSO BROUGHT UP ISSUE OF SIGNATURE OF AGREEMENT IN THE EVENT NEGOTIATIONS CONCLUDED IN TIME, OBSERVING THAT GOJ PRACTICES MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR MIKI, AS EA HEAD, TO SIGN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT, WHICH NORMALLY SIGNED BY FOREIGN MINISTER. AS PROBABLE ALTERNATIVE TO EXECUTION OF AGREEMENT AT CONFERENCE, JOINT COMMUNIQUE COULD EXPRESS INTENTION OF PARTIES TO CONCLUDE SUCH AGREEMENT AND REPORT ON PROGRESS MADE TOWARD THAT END.

6. QUESTIONS RAISED IN REFTEL A, WHICH RECEIVED FOLLOWING DISCUSSION REPORTED HEREIN, NOW BEING REVIEWED WITH GOJ, AND RESPONSES WILL BE PROVIDED WHEN AVAILABLE. IN MEANTIME, EMBASSY WILL APPRECIATE ANY COMMENTS ON APPROACH OUTLINED, SINCE GOJ SHOULD BE INFORMED PROMPTLY IF THERE ARE ANY SIGNIFICANT US RESERVATIONS.

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